

Code, and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. The Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the Secretary of Homeland Security with respect to the Coast Guard when it is not operating as a service in the Navy, with respect to members of the uniformed services under their respective jurisdictions, are hereby designated and empowered to exercise, without approval, ratification, or other action by the President, the authority vested in the President by sections 301, 301a, and 301c of title 37, United States Code. The Secretaries shall consult each other in the exercise of such authority to ensure similar treatment for similarly situated members of the uniformed services unless the needs of their respective uniformed services require differing treatment.

Sec. 2. Executive Order 11157 of June 22, 1964, as amended, and Executive Order 11800 of August 17, 1974, as amended, are hereby revoked.

Sec. 3. This order is not intended to create, nor does it create, any right, benefit, or privilege, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law by a party against the United States, its agencies, officers, employees, or any other person.

George W. Bush

The White House,
March 28, 2003.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register,
11:33 a.m., March 31, 2003]

NOTE: This Executive order will be published in the *Federal Register* on April 1.

**Proclamation 7657—To Take
Certain Actions Under the African
Growth and Opportunity Act With
Respect to the Republic of The
Gambia and the Democratic
Republic of Congo**

March 28, 2003

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

1. Section 506A(a)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the “1974 Act”) (19 U.S.C. 2466a(a)(1)), as added by section 111(a) of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (title I of Public Law 106–200) (AGOA), authorizes the President to designate a country listed in section 107 of the AGOA (19 U.S.C. 3706) as a “beneficiary sub-Saharan African country” if the President determines that the country meets the eligibility requirements set forth in section 104 of the AGOA (19 U.S.C. 3703), as well as the eligibility criteria set forth in section 502 of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2462).

2. Section 104 of the AGOA authorizes the President to designate a country listed in section 107 of the AGOA as an “eligible sub-Saharan African country” if the President determines that the country meets certain eligibility requirements.

3. Section 112(b)(3)(B) of the AGOA (19 U.S.C. 3721(b)(3)(B)) provides special rules for certain apparel articles imported from “lesser developed beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries.”

4. Pursuant to section 104 of the AGOA and section 506A(a)(1) of the 1974 Act, I have determined that the Republic of The Gambia (The Gambia) meets the eligibility requirements set forth or referenced therein, and I have decided to designate The Gambia as an eligible sub-Saharan African country and as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country.

5. Pursuant to section 104 of the AGOA, I have determined that the Democratic Republic of Congo (DROC) meets the eligibility criteria set forth therein, and I have decided to designate DROC as an eligible sub-Saharan African country.

6. I have further decided to authorize the United States Trade Representative (USTR) to exercise the authority provided to the President under section 506A(a)(1) of the 1974 Act with respect to DROC. The USTR shall announce any such exercise of authority in a notice published in the *Federal Register*.

7. The Gambia satisfies the criterion for treatment as a “lesser developed beneficiary sub-Saharan African country” under section 112(b)(3)(B) of the AGOA. DROC, if it is designated as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country, would also satisfy the criterion for treatment as a “lesser developed beneficiary sub-Saharan African country” under section 112(b)(3)(B) of the AGOA.

8. Section 604 of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2483) authorizes the President to embody in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) the substance of the relevant provisions of that Act, and of other acts affecting import treatment, and actions thereunder, including the removal, modification, continuance, or imposition of any rate of duty or other import restriction.

9. With respect to any designation of DROC as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country, I have decided to authorize the USTR to exercise the authority provided to the President under section 604 of the 1974 Act to embody modifications and technical or conforming changes in the HTS.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, acting under the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including sections 506A and 604 of the 1974 Act and section 104 of the AGOA, do proclaim that:

(1) The Gambia is designated as an eligible sub-Saharan African country and as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country.

(2) In order to reflect this designation in the HTS, general note 16(a) to the HTS is

modified by inserting in alphabetical sequence in the list of beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries “Republic of The Gambia.”

(3) DROC is designated as an eligible sub-Saharan African country.

(4) The USTR is authorized to exercise the authority provided to the President under section 506A(a)(1) of the 1974 Act with respect to DROC. The USTR shall announce any such exercise of authority in a notice published in the *Federal Register*. To implement any designation of DROC as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country, the USTR is authorized to exercise the authority provided to the President under section 604 of the 1974 Act to embody modifications and technical or conforming changes in the HTS.

(5) For purposes of section 112(b)(3)(B) of the AGOA, The Gambia is a lesser developed beneficiary sub-Saharan African country. If it is designated as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country, DROC would also be a lesser developed beneficiary sub-Saharan African country for purposes of section 112(b)(3)(B) of the AGOA.

(6) Any provisions of previous proclamations and Executive Orders that are inconsistent with this proclamation are superseded to the extent of such inconsistency.

(7) The modification to the HTS made by this proclamation shall be effective with respect to articles entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after the date of publication of this proclamation in the *Federal Register*.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-eighth day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., April 1, 2003]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on April 2.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

March 22

In the morning, at Camp David, MD, the President had an intelligence briefing and met with his war council.

March 23

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

March 24

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom to discuss military action against Iraq. Later, he had a telephone conversation with President Vladimir Putin of Russia to discuss military action against Iraq, cooperation on humanitarian issues, Russia-U.S. relations, and U.S. concerns about Russian business transactions with Iraq. He then had a telephone conversation with President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain.

Later in the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings and met with the National Security Council. Later, he met with Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the White House Residence. Later, in the Oval Office, he met with Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan and Treasury Secretary John W. Snow.

Later in the afternoon, the President met with the National Economic Council to discuss the state of the U.S. economy. Also, in the Cabinet Room, he met with bipartisan congressional leaders to discuss supplemental appropriations for military action against Iraq.

The President announced his intention to appoint Brian Griffin as U.S. Representative to the Southern States Energy Board.

The President announced his intention to appoint Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., and Martha H. Marsh as members of the National Infrastructure Advisory Council.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation: Emily Z. Baldrige, Amber Coffman, Michelle Nunn, Rebecca W. Rimel, and Juliann Thomas.

March 25

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings.

Later in the morning, the President traveled to the Pentagon in Arlington, VA, where he had a briefing with Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and senior Pentagon officials. Later, he returned to the White House.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom to Camp David, MD, on March 26–27 to discuss military action, humanitarian relief, reconstruction, and efforts to build democracy in Iraq.

The President announced his intention to nominate John F. Maisto to be Permanent U.S. Representative to the Organization of American States, with the rank of Ambassador.

The President announced his intention to nominate Marsha E. Barnes to be Ambassador to Suriname.

The President announced his intention to appoint Gary R. Mitchell as Federal member of the Kansas-Nebraska Big Blue River Compact Administration (Kansas and Nebraska).

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Advisory Committee on the Arts of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts: Joan D. Austin, Kristen A. Avansino, Kathryn Burke, Robert J. Dellenback, Mary Galvin, Janet H. Geary, Arthur J. Hackney, Diana Kelley, Arthur K. Langlie, James V. Nepola, Sandy Peltyn, and Evelyn J. Wiginton.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council: Debra L. Cohen, Solomon M. Devinki, Donald Etra, David M. Flaum, Eric F. Ross, Rochard Sambol, and Merrill H. Tisch.

The President announced his intention to appoint Gary J. Lavine, Rachmiel Liberman, and Harriet Rotter as members of the Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad.